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ICE 'tyranny' lays bare divide within US society

• Tensions escalate nationwide after another shooting in Oregon • Local investigators shut out of probe • Trump administration officials continue to defend officers' actions

MINNEAPOLIS: The Minnesota National Guard on Friday was placed on alert as protests erupted across the United States after a second shooting by immigration officers in two days deepened rifts between state and federal officials over President Donald Trump's aggressive immigration crackdown.

Renee Nicole Good, a 37-year-old mother, was fatally shot on Wednesday by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer in Minneapolis.

Protests intensified after Trump administration officials accused the Minneapolis victim, Good, of "domestic terrorism", with Vice President JD Vance alleging, without providing evidence, that she was part of a "broader left-wing network" opposed to ICE.

The situation further escalated on Thursday afternoon when a US Border Patrol agent shot and wounded a man and a woman in Portland, Oregon.

In both instances, local and state officials offered accounts that starkly contradicted those of the federal government, complaining they were being shut out of investigations in their own jurisdictions.

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in Minneapolis chanting "shame" and "murder" at armed and masked federal officers. Some officers used tear gas and pepper balls on the crowd.

Facing the potential for further civil unrest, Minnesota Gov Tim Walz put the state's National Guard on alert.

Good's fatal shooting sparked national outrage and duelling narratives. The Trump administration insisted the officer acted in self-defence when Good allegedly attempted to run him over. Vance called her death "a tragedy of her own making".

However, local Minnesota officials directly challenged the federal government's version of events. Walz warned the public not to believe what he described as a "propaganda machine," while Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey called ICE's characterisation of the shooting "bulls---".

State officials also said they were denied access to scene evidence, case materials and interviews, leading the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to withdraw from the probe.

The FBI will now be solely responsible for the investigation, a development Walz said made him pessimistic about a "fair outcome".

US Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem told reporters that Minnesota simply did not have jurisdiction.

Bystander video of the Minneapolis shooting shows two masked officers approaching Good's car before a third officer draws his weapon and fires three times as the vehicle moves forward.

It was unclear from the footage whether the car made contact with the agent. Trump later claimed on social media that the woman "ran over the ICE Officer".

Michelle Gross, president of the Minnesota-based Communities United Against Police Brutality, said Good was a US citizen participating in a "neighbourhood patrol" that observes and documents ICE activities.

In the Portland incident, DHS claimed a suspected Venezuelan gang member attempted to "weaponise" his vehicle. Local police confirmed two people were later found with gunshot wounds and hospitalised. Oregon Gov Tina Kotek condemned the use of federal force as an unnecessary provocation.

"When a president endorses tearing families apart and attempts to govern through fear and hate rather than shared values, you foster an environment of lawlessness and recklessness," Kotek said.

The shootings occurred amid a massive surge in federal enforcement tied to Trump's campaign promise to carry out the "largest deportation operation in American history."

The ICE agent who shot Good was reportedly among 2,000 federal officers deployed to Minneapolis in what the administration described as the "largest DHS operation ever".—Agencies

US BORDER Patrol Agents detain a protester a day after the fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good by ICE in Minneapolis, sparking outrage that was intensified by Trump administration officials labelling the incident an act of 'domestic terrorism'.—Reuters

Trade deal fell thru because 'Modi didn't call Trump'

New Delhi 'feebly' disputes US commerce secy's remarks, claims both leaders spoke eight times last year

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump's humiliation of Indian PM Narendra Modi continued on Friday, amid allegations by US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick that a trade deal hanging fire between the uneasy friends could not be concluded because Mr Modi didn't call the US president to seal the pact.

Lutnick's allegation was countered, albeit somewhat feebly by India's external affairs ministry, who said the two leaders had indeed spoken eight times last year.

There has been speculation that Modi tried everything, including forgoing important international summits, to vacate the chances of meeting the US president.

Lutnick's remarks and the foreign ministry's curious denial only further underscore the breach in the narrative between the two sides, which has stalked their ties since the ending of a short military standoff between India and Pakistan in May last year.

Trump has said on dozens of occasions claimed he helped mediate the truce, whereas India has rejected the claim, but without Modi giving his version.

The latest comments only thicken the fog.

"It's all set up and you have got to have Modi call the President. And they were uncomfortable doing it," Lutnick said in an interview on the *All-In* podcast, a US show that focuses on business and technology.

However, the Indian external affairs ministry said the "characterisation of these discussions in the reported remarks is not accurate".

Spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday that the two countries have been close to a deal on several occasions since the agreement to negotiate in February last year.

Failure of the trade talks saw Trump doubling tariffs in August for Indian goods to 50 per cent, the highest in the world, which included 25pc as punitive measures for India's continued procurement of Russian oil, which the US says helps Moscow fight Ukraine.

Recently, US Senator Lindsey Graham said President Trump had also "greenlit" the Russia sanctions bill, which has been in the works for months.

The bill allows the US administration to impose tariffs and secondary sanctions on countries that purchase Russia's oil, gas, uranium and other exports in an effort to cut off the source of financing for much of Russia's military actions.

All that India has said in response so far is that it is aware of the US bill, which proposes that any country trading with Russia faces a punitive tariff of at least 500pc.

"We are aware of the proposed bill. We are closely following the developments," Jaiswal said.

Earlier, Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery, the largest in the world, said it doesn't receive any oil from Russia in January 2026. The statement followed a Nov 20 announcement by the company that it had halted the import of Russian oil for its export-oriented Special Economic Zone unit at Jamnagar.

Meanwhile, Trump continues to take a condescending tone on India. "They [India] wanted to make me happy, basically. Modi is a very good man; he is a good guy. He knew I was not happy, and it was important to make me happy," he told reporterss aboard Air Force One this week.

Not only has the Trump administration not reduced the 50pc tariffs, the US president has gone as far as to say that the US may be in a position to raise tariffs on India.

"They do trade and we can raise tariffs on them very quickly. It would be very bad for them," he said.—Correspondent

Dar heads to Jeddah for extraordinary OIC moot

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will attend an extraordinary meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers, scheduled for Saturday, in Saudi Arabia.

The meeting will discuss the implications of Israel's recognition of Somaliland.

"The session will address the implications of Israel's recognition of the so-called Somaliland region of the Federal Republic of Somalia," read a statement issued by the Foreign Office (FO) on Friday.

The FO said the deputy prime minister would share Pakistan's position on the issue of Somaliland.

On the sidelines of the OIC foreign ministers' session, Mr Dar will hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other member states to discuss further cooperation on regional and international issues, the statement added.

Israel has recently recognised Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state, with Somaliland's president, Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, saying his state will join the Abraham Accords. Later, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar visited Somaliland, condemned by Somalia as an "unauthorised incursion".

In a joint statement, Pakistan and a wide selection of Muslim countries on Thursday condemned the visit by the Israeli diplomat to Somaliland. The joint statement was issued on behalf of the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Turkiye and Yemen, as well as the OIC.

Pakistan also joined 20 other nations and the OIC last month in rejecting Israel's recognition of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland.—Dawn Report

After Venezuela, Colombia fears US military action

President Petro raises alarm after Trump says operation in South American country 'sounds good'

AFTER the United States forces recently carried out a raid in Venezuela and captured its leader Nicolas Maduro, Colombia's President Gustavo Petro has said that he believed there was now a "real threat" of American military action against his country.

Speaking to the *BBC*, Petro said Washington was treating other nations as part of a US "empire".

His remarks came after US President Donald Trump said a military operation in Colombia "sounds good" in the wake of strikes on Venezuela and the seizure of Maduro.

Petro said that the US risked transforming from "dominating the world" to becoming "isolated from the world".

He also accused US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents of acting like "Nazi brigades".

Trump has significantly expanded ICE operations as part of what the administration says is a crackdown on crime and immigrants who illegally entered the US.

The *BBC* has approached the White House for comment.

Trump has also repeatedly told Petro to "watch his a..", remarks the Colombian president strongly condemned.

Change in tone

Trump and Petro spoke by phone on Wednesday evening, after which US president said he would meet his Colombian counterpart at the White House in the "near future".

Writing on his Truth Social platform late on Wednesday after the call, Trump described his conversation with Petro as a "Great Honour".

A Colombian official said at the time that the conversation had reflected a 180-degree shift in rhetoric "from both sides".

But on Thursday, Petro's tone suggested relations had not significantly improved.

He told the *BBC* the call lasted just under an hour, "most of it occupied by me", covered "drug trafficking Colombia", his country's view on Venezuela and "what is happening around Latin America regarding the United States".

Trump has accused countries like Colombia and Venezuela of not doing enough to tackle drug-trafficking.

The US has conducted more than 30 strikes in recent months on vessels that the Washington says were being used for drug trafficking in the Caribbean and the Pacific, killing more than 110 people.

Trump told *Fox News* host Sean Hannity in an interview that aired on Thursday night that after targeting drug trafficking by water "we are going to start now hitting land", adding that "the cartels are running Mexico".

Trump has often blamed immigration for crime and trafficking in the US, using it to justify large-scale enforcement operations.— Monitoring Desk

Astronaut's 'serious medical condition' forces Nasa to end space station mission early

Agency cites inability to diagnose and treat condition on ISS

WASHINGTON: A "serious medical condition" with a crew member aboard the International Space Station has led Nasa to bring the astronaut and three crewmates back to Earth months earlier than planned, the first such emergency return in the orbiting laboratory's 25-year history, senior space agency officials said.

Nasa Administrator Jared Isaacman told reporters on Thursday in a short-notice press conference in Washington that he and medical officials made the decision to return the astronaut, whom he did not identify, because "the capability to diagnose and treat this properly does not live on the International Space Station".

The NASA officials did not identify which of the Crew-11 mission's four astronauts was experiencing the medical issue or describe its nature, citing the crew member's privacy.

"This is not an emergency evacuation," said a Nasa official according to a *BBC* report, adding: "We always err on the side of the astronaut's health."

An update was expected within 48 hours on the timeline for the astronauts' return, the Nasa officials added.

On Wednesday, Nasa abruptly cancelled a spacewalk due to take place on Thursday, when two astronauts were set to step outside the ISS, citing a "medical concern".

"Safely conducting our missions is our highest priority, and we are actively evaluating all options, including the possibility of an earlier end to Crew 11's mission," said a Nasa spokeswoman on Wednesday after the last-minute cancellation of the spacewalk.

First early evacuation

This is the first early evacuation in the history of the ISS, which has been continuously inhabited since the year 2000.

The four-person team is called Crew-11, and consists of Nasa astronauts Zena Cardman and Mike Fincke, Kimiya Yui from Japan's JAXA space agency, and a Russian cosmonaut, Oleg Platonov.

One American astronaut will remain aboard the ISS, officials say, and will be accompanied by two Russian cosmonauts.

Dr James Polk, Nasa's chief health and medical officer, told reporters that this was the first time in Nasa's over 65-year history that a mission would return early due to a medical issue.

Crew-11 launched to the ISS in August last year on a SpaceX Crew Dragon and were expected to remain in orbit for about six months, returning around next month, after being replaced by another four-person crew a few days earlier.

The ISS has basic medical equipment, supplies and communication systems that let doctors on Earth talk privately to astronauts in space, assess their condition and advise treatment, much like a secure video or phone consultation with a **general physician**.

Returning the four-person crew early could delay some experiments and maintenance tasks until the new crew arrive next month, according to Dr Simeon Barber, a space scientist at the Open University.

"The space station is a big, complex feat of engineering, it's designed to be operated by a certain minimum level of crew," he said.

He added that the remaining crew would probably be forced to "dial back on some of the more experimental work and focus more just on the housekeeping and keeping the station healthy, waiting for the full complement of crew to be restored".

Spacewalks are arduous and risky missions that require months of training, involving bulky spacesuits and carefully coordinated instructions while tethered to the ISS.—Reuters/ Monitoring Desk

Russia fires nuclear-capable missile to strike western Ukraine

• Official says Oreshnik missile carried 'dummy' warheads, hit near Poland border • Overnight barrage kills four in Kyiv • Qatari embassy in Ukrainian capital damaged; no injuries reported

KYIV: Russia fired a powerful hypersonic missile overnight at a target in Ukraine near the border with Nato-member Poland, in what Kyiv's European allies on Friday described as an attempt to intimidate them from supporting Ukraine.

It was only the second time Russia has fired the Oreshnik at Ukraine. The assault came amid a night of air attacks that Ukrainian authorities said also killed four people in Kyiv, knocked out power in the capital and damaged the Qatari embassy there.

Mass heating outages caused by Russian strikes are set to last into the weekend, with the capital's mayor calling on residents to temporarily leave the city with sub-zero temperatures expected to fall even lower.

The Oreshnik, an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) designed to project power across Europe and which Moscow says is impossible to intercept, can carry nuclear warheads although there was no suggestion it had done so. A senior Ukrainian official said it appeared to be carrying inert "dummy" warheads.

The strike appeared aimed at cowing Ukraine at a crucial juncture in talks to end the war, analysts said. It happened after a week of setbacks for Russia, including the US capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, a close ally of Russia.

Moscow said it fired the missile in response to what it calls an attempted drone attack on one of Putin's residences last month, which Ukraine denies and the US has said did not happen.

"Such a strike close to EU and Nato border is a grave threat to the security on the European continent and a test for the transatlantic community," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha said on X.

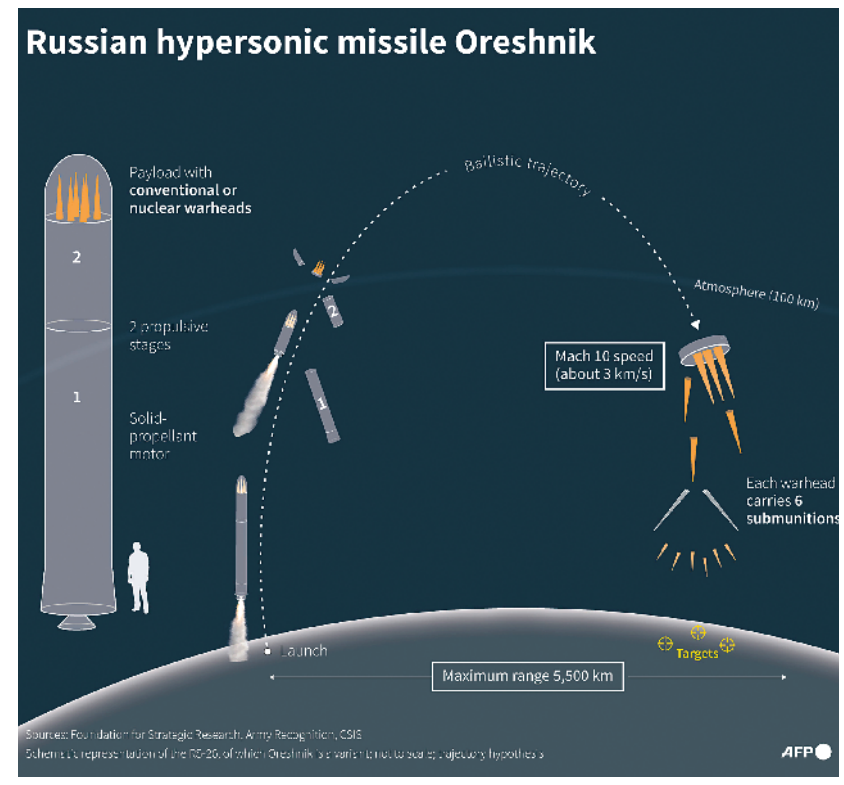
"It is absurd that Russia attempts to justify this strike with the fake 'Putin residence attack' that never happened," he added. "Putin uses an IRBM near EU and Nato border in response to his own hallucinations this is truly a global threat. And it demands global responses."

EU denounces 'clear escalation'

It took place days after a summit where European countries pledged to offer troops for Ukraine in the event of a ceasefire and Washington backed giving security guarantees for Kyiv.

"Russia's reported use of an Oreshnik missile is a clear escalation against Ukraine and meant as a warning to Europe and to the US," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on X.

,Qatar confirmed that its embassy was damaged and said no one was hurt there. The country has occasionally acted as a mediator in the conflict.—Agencies



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